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Geography, shed of all its synthesizing responsibilities which would take into consideration a number of geographic elements, must concentrate on only those elements of national power which are uniquely geographic in nature. These are: location, size, shape, and boundaries.

These elements are factual in that they do exist. The normally considered elements of climate, terrain, vegetation, natural resources, population, ethnic characteristics, transportation, communications -- while having geographic characteristics -- are not fundamental geographic factors but are conditioned by one or more of the four fundamental elements named above. For purposes of this Power Positions study, these quasi-geographic elements should be considered by specialists in these particular fields.

The growth and expansion of nations, either peacefully or otherwise, is conditioned to a large degree by the state of knowledge which nations have of their own and others' physical environment. Any favorable disparity in the degree of such knowledge is bound to give one nation or group of nations an advantage with respect to others. The Geographic Research Area feels that an assessment of the disparity in the degree of knowledge of physical environment that exists in and between the Free World and the

Sino-Soviet Bloc is a significant element contributing to relative power. The broad range of topics whose consideration would be involved in the assessment of the disparity of knowledge of the physical environment will be evaluated as an additional element.